

# The Hong Kong Daily Press

No. 5240 號十四百二千五百

日二金月七年庚申年

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1874.

三拜禮

號二九英

港

PRIOR \$21 PER MONTH.

## Arrivals.

Sept. 1, OLYMPIA, German str., 777, P. P. Grey, Shanghai 27th August, General SIEMSEN & Co.

Sept. 1, DENMARK, Siam, bark, 380, Bloom, port, put back.

Sept. 1, YANGTSE, British str., 782, Canton 1st September, General—SIEMSEN & Co.

## Departures.

Sept. 1, OLYMPIA, str., for Canton.

Sept. 1, DIOME, str., for Shanghai.

## Clearances.

At the HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE, September 1st.

Diomed, str., for Shanghai.

Olympia, str., for Canton.

Yankee, for Newchow.

Enterprise, for Bangkok.

## Passengers.

Part Enterprise for Bangkok.

20 Chinese.

## Reports.

The Siamese bark *Denmark* reports put back on 31st August. Had heavy weather of Lame Point, and a heavy sea and squalls from the E.N.E.

## Vessels Exported at Hongkong.

### (Corrected to Date.)

**THE UNION BANK OF LONDON;**  
**THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA;**  
**AGENTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES;**  
**THE CITY BANK;**  
**THE MERCANTILE BANK OF SYDNEY;**  
**AGENTS IN VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA;**  
**THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA;**  
**AGENTS IN NEW ZEALAND;**  
**THE BANK OF NEW ZEALAND;**  
**AGENTS IN NEW YORK;**  
**MESSRS. LAIDLAW & CO.**  
**AGENTS IN SAN FRANCISCO;**  
**THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA;**  
**AGENTS IN INDIANAPOLIS, BOSTON, AND NEW YORK;**  
**THE ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION;**  
**6m 1133; J. 21, 1874.**  
**THE ANGLO-CALIFORNIA BANK,**  
**(LIMITED);**  
412, OAK ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.  
London Office, 3, Angel Court.  
New York Agents, J. & W. SELIGMAN & Co., 21, Broad Street.  
AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK.....\$6,000,000.

**WILL** receive Deposits, open Accounts, and make Collections, buy and sell Exchange and Bullion, loan Money, and issue Letters of Credit available throughout the world.

FRED. F. LOW, Manager.

1874 IGN. STEINHARDT, Manager.

COMPTOIR DESCOMPTES DE PARIS.

## Auction Sales To-day.

### None.

**THE SWISS LLOYDS' TRANSPORT INSURANCE COMPANY,**  
**WINTERTHUR.** Capital  
Co-sureties with French Lloyd, Paris, Fr. 7,000,000  
AND WITH French Company, Paris, 5,000,000.

The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies on Marine Risks to all parts of the World at Current Rates, allowing usual Brokerage.

## VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co., Agents.

1874 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

**YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.**

## NOTICE.

ON and after this date the above Association will allow a Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE and ONE-THIRD PER CENT. (33 1/3%) on Local Risks only.

## RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

1874 Hongkong, 4th June, 1874.

**TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.**

The Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept risks against Fire of current rates, subject to a bonus of 20 per cent.

## SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

1874 Hongkong, 16th November, 1872.

**London and Oriental Steam Transit Insurance Office,**  
**137, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.**  
ESTABLISHED 1843.

The Undersigned is authorized to accept risks on behalf of this Office, by First Class Steamers and Vailing Ships.

## A. McIVERT, Agent.

1874 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

**QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.**

HONGKONG, and after this date, until further notice, a Bonus of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rate of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

## DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., Agents.

1874 25th June, 1872.

**LIVERPOOL and LONDON and GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

HONGKONG, this date, until further notice, a Bonus of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rate of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

## DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., Agents.

1874 Hongkong, 27th June, 1872.

**PHOENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

The Undersigned having been appointed Agents to the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000, on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein.

## DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co., Agents.

1874 Hongkong, 9th November, 1868.

**NOW ON SALE.**

**THE HOUSEHOLD COMPANION**

### AND STUDENTS FIRST ASSISTANT.

By Dr. DEAN, with many Additions, Corrected, and with the latest Orthography.

## Price 1s. Wholes. 1s. 6d. Net.

1874 Apply at the *Booksellers' Office*.

The Undersigned begs to inform the

HONGKONG, HO KAM, AND CANTON

that he has shops established at those places in the name of HING KEE.

In HONGKONG, at the Central Market,

No. 12, he has constantly on hand BEEF,

MUTTON, POULTRY, BREAD, VEGETABLES, and OILMEN'S STORES, &c., of the best quality.

At HO KAM, and CANTON SHOPS, the

former articles with the addition of SPICES,

SODA WATER, &c., and GAME when in season.

Citizens and Families desirous of patronizing him, are requested to apply at his shop as above, where a list of prices of articles will be furnished, which will be supplied at the same rate all the year round.

## HING KEE.

1874 Hongkong, 13th May, 1874.

## Banks.

**THE QUEENSLAND AND NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.**  
Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1863.

CAPITAL, £250,000.

HEAD OFFICE, BRISBANE.

DIRECTORS:

HON. F. H. HART, M.L.C. Chairman.

HON. A. B. BUCHANAN, M.L.C.

HON. THOS. McILWATH, M.L.A.

ADMIRAL:

FREDRICK ORME DARWALL, Esq.

W. F. DIGBY, Esq.

GENERAL MANAGER:

E. E. DRURY.

BLANCHES:

GREENLEIGH.

CHAMBERS TOWERS.

COOTON TOWN.

GYMNASIUM.

MARYBOROUGH.

MILLCHESTER.

ROCKHAMPTON.

ROMA.

STANTHORPE.

TOOWOOMBA.

TRINITY TOWNS.

ADMIRAL:

LAMBERT, ATKINSON & Co.

ff 771 Hongkong, 18th May, 1874.

## To be Let.

TO LET.  
No. 7 Garden Road, known as "HARPERVILLE," occupied by J. M. WALTERS, Esq. Apply to

DAVID SASSON, SONS & Co.

1862 Hongkong, 1st September, 1874.

TO LET.

A HOUSE on Queen's Road, Water-lifted on Terms, moderate. Apply to

LAMBERT, ATKINSON & Co.

ff 771 Hongkong, 18th May, 1874.

TO LET.

The whole, or part, of the Residence known as "THE HERMITAGE,"

Apply to

T. ALCAR,

5, Hollywood Road, 1877 Hongkong, 23rd June, 1874.

TO LET.

The PREMISES at present occupied by

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, Queen's Road.

Apply to

G. FALCONER,

ff 1070 Hongkong, 7th July, 1874.

TO LET.

With Possession on the 1st of March.

The Business PREMISES and Dwelling-

HOUSE on Queen's Road, at present in the occupation of Messrs. LAMBERT, ATKINSON & Co.

Apply to

HOBT. S. WALKER & Co.

ff 41 Hongkong, 8th January, 1874.

TO LET.

With Possession on the 1st of September.

The OFFICES over the HONGKONG DIS-

TRIBUNAL, Apply to

A. S. WATSON & Co.

ff 1840 Hongkong, 27th August, 1874.

TO LET.

With Immediate Possession.

THE HOUSE No. 7, Aberdeen Street, Wa-

ter and Gas laid on.

Apply to

A. F. ALVES,

ff 920 Hongkong, 13th June, 1874.

TO LET.

With Immediate Possession.

THE OFFICES in a House Building, Pedder's

Wife, 1874, Apply to

LAMBERT, ATKINSON & Co.

ff 782 Hongkong, 19th May, 1874.

TO LET.

With immediate Possession.

THE HOUSE No. 2, 4, and 6, in Hollywood

Road, lately forming part of the "Hotel d'Europe." Apply to

DAVID SASSON, SONS & Co.

ff 783 Hongkong, 19th May, 1874.

TO LET.

The PREMISES situate in Queen's Road

Central, known as "

## THE CHRONICLE &amp; DIRECTORY FOR 1874.

NOW ON SALE.

THIS Work, now in the TWELFTH year of its existence, is now on sale. It has been compiled and printed at the *Daily Press* Office, unusual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in its scope. In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the *CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1874* has been further augmented by a

CHINESE LITHOGRAPH.

PLAN OF THE CITY OF CANTON,

FOREIGN SHIPMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PEAK.

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS

(Designed especially for this Work),

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,

THE CITIES OF CHINA;

AND THE NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE

HONGKONG.

Besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The Directory is published in Two Parts, Complete at \$5, or with the Lists of Residents, Post Directories, Maps, &amp;c., at \$3.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the *Daily Press* Office, or to the following Agents:

Macao.....Messrs. J. P. DA SILVA &amp; Co.

Swatow.....".....QUELCH AND CAMPBELL.

Amoy.....".....WILSON, NICHOLLS &amp; Co.

Kowloon.....".....HOBSON &amp; CO.

Kwangchow.....".....HOBSON &amp; CO.

Ningpo.....".....KELLY &amp; Co., Shanghai.

Shanghai.....".....HALL &amp; HOLTZ &amp; KELLY

River Ports, ".....KELLY &amp; Co., Shangh.

Chefoo, ".....HALL &amp; HOLTZ &amp; KELLY

Tsinchow, ".....KELLY &amp; Co., Shangh.

Fukien, ".....HALL &amp; HOLTZ &amp; KELLY

Nagasaki, ".....THE G. &amp; J. TRADING CO.

Hippo, Osaka, ".....THE G. &amp; J. TRADING CO.

Yokohama, ".....MESSRS. LANE, KIRK &amp; CO.

Mr. C. D. MOSE, Japan Gazette

Office.

Manila, ".....MESSRS. J. DE LOYACO &amp; Co.

Singapore, ".....Stratford Times Office.

London, ".....Mr. A. A. Cleverley, London.

Gao, ".....Mr. L. P. Fisher, 21, Mrs.

Shaw's Exchange.

The protest which was made by the Hon. Mr. WHITFALL in Council, on Monday, concerning the storage of large quantities of powder at Kellet's Island, will undoubtedly meet with the general sympathy of the community. It seems something simply astounding that any right can possibly exist to store gunpowder in large quantities in close proximity to property of immense value, and where there are numbers whose lives would be endangered by an accident, and to refuse to give any information with regard to it. We do not doubt for a single moment that the military authorities in the Colony are quite infallible, but, if we lived anywhere in the neighbourhood of Kitchener's Island, we should very much like to have an opportunity of verifying this theory, however natural it may be to form it upon abstract grounds, in view of the excellent management which has invariably been shown to attach to all matters connected with the Army. Nor do we wish to deny that the Colony of Hongkong is made for the troops, and not the troops for Hongkong. What are a few merchants or one or two little houses like those at East Point compared with the gigantic importance of the five or six hundred troops stationed on the island? It is obvious that any considerations but those of military convenience are beside the question, and if the residents are put out in any way can easily leave the Colony, which will quite fulfil its destiny so long as it is the site of barracks and naval depots.

Admitting all this, however, we certainly agree with Mr. WHITFALL that the answer given to his question was unsatisfactory. Indeed, not being shamed by the etiquette of Legislative Councils, we should be disposed to say that it is something more. It is at the least something supercilious to refuse an answer to a question which, as the representative of a house owning very valuable property in the immediate neighbourhood, and as a resident there, Mr. WHITFALL very naturally asked. If there were any possibility that some important military measure would be frustrated by giving the information, the refusal to do so could be easily understood, but as it is not to be supposed that the military authorities have any idea of exploding a mine in the particular place, if they can help it, it is beyond civilian capacity to guess what reason there may be for reticence except that shrewdly divined by Mr. WHITFALL that there is more powder than they care to speak of. If such is the case, the more reason for a protest being made in the matter.

The answer on the subject given by H.E. the GOVERNOR that a protest should have been made at the time the Magazine was commenced clearly fails to meet the case. It was natural to suppose that only a moderate quantity of powder would be stored in such close proximity to the Colony, and until there was reason to believe that a dangerously large quantity had been stored in the Magazine, there was no ground for entering a protest. Latterly it seems that there has been some reason to come to this conclusion, and the protest is, therefore, perfectly reasonable, failing an answer to the question as to what quantity of gunpowder is placed in the Magazine. Unless there is some rule which places the military beyond the pale of all law in the place, the question ought surely to have been met in a more reasonable and more conciliatory spirit. People who "want to know, you know" have always been unpopular with those connected with the Government or the Services—but when a man sees a possibility of an explosion such as may scatter him, his family, his employs, his house, godown, and worldly goods to the four winds of Heaven, he may perhaps be excused even for being guilty of the hideous offence of "wanting to know." At least a little more concern, and perhaps a little more conciliatory might be evinced than are displayed in the despatch of "the Military Authorities." We have heard of the

rather vulgar but expressive answer: "You are blown"—but the Hon. Mr. WHITFALL is probably the first member of Council who has received the reply: "You are blown up."

MEETING OF THE JUSTICES.

A meeting of the Justices was held yesterday, at the Magistracy, at 11 a.m. Present: C. May, Esq. (in the chair), James Russell, Esq., W. M. Deane, Esq., and J. T. Tonyngh, Esq. Who had been appointed by the authority of transferring the licensees of houses "Liverpool Arms" and "British Crown."

Mr. Mariano Fernandez applied to have his license of "Liverpool Arms" transferred to Joso de Souza. The applicant was told that he had had three licenses, which would not be allowed to traffic any more in spirit liquors. The transfer of the license was granted.

The application of Louis J. Loko for the transfer of his license of the "British Crown" tavern was then considered. J. C. Medina, to whom it was to be transferred, having been known to have only held one license, namely, that of the "Royal Oak," and the police having no objection, the transfer was granted.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE. 1st September.

BEFORE JAMES RUSSELL, Esq.

HOUSEHOLDERS ON THE MYSTERIES OF CHINESE SPIRITS.

A widow woman, named Wong Asing, charged a coolie named Thoi Akin, with forcibly entering her house No. 31, Wing-on-street, and stealing some clothing from her room, at 9 p.m. on the 31st ultime.

Complainant said that on the 18th August he had complained and his blind mother and herself brought up in the house to inspect through the open windows and choose which pieces of clothing he would take and wear. She watched for his spirit, having fastened all the doors, till 9 p.m., when she closed them and fell into a sleep. It was a quarter of an hour a noise was heard in the room, and on getting up, she found the whole of the clothes gone, and strange to say the take of the thief was the same as that of the complainant, and that he had nothing in his hand when he was apprehended, and his blind mother and herself brought up in the house to inspect through the open windows and choose which pieces of clothing he would take and wear. She watched for his spirit, having fastened all the doors, till 9 p.m., when she closed them and fell into a sleep. 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## CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO MAURITIUS.

Industrious, frugal, hard-working, the Chinese seem determined to plant themselves wherever there is a market for labor. Occasionally an outcry is heard from some remote part of the world where an influx of pig-tailed "Celestials" has produced a fall in the rate of wages. In some parts of the United States, as well as in India, the rate of wages has recently fallen from this cause, and at least the English inhabitants of Mauritius are inclined to complain against the common law. During the present year, ship after ship has reached Port Louis thronged with Chinese immigrants, and the colonists, looking gloomily at the incessant influx, appear almost disposed to adopt measures similar to those employed by the farmers of Minnesota against labor. The arrival of immigrants in such numbers, however, will not be of great practical interest. They represent the old race of infection, becoming for European Basins, and probably tending to become for all Basins, an influence scarcely to be called alien and rare, but at least comparatively naturalized and gradually assimilating itself in this respect as we have known it to be akin in certain other respects to the family "Europe." It adds, "the importance of the facts in this point of view seems to me to attach to them equally, whether they be explained on the assumption of their origin or the other—whether they arise, as, Mr. Radcliffe's former argument would suggest, by means of repeated introductions of new infection from without, or, as Dr. Pelikan maintains, by the long period of time during which the disease has been introduced. On either supposition we have to remember with regard to the future the increasing facilities for infection from India which are inseparable from the development of traffic." He thinks that the possibility of a new and most deadly contagion, tending by degrees to become current in Western Europe, can only be contemplated without first a feeling that the true defences of England against such an infection are not in the least prepared. A much greater fault in Mauritius appears to be that the Chinese almost invariably succeed in their undertakings. Some of the popular journals become quite patriotic when dwelling on this fact. Why should these objectionable barbarians invariably prosper when other classes of the cosmopolitan population in the island are not? They will exist. They will not labor in the fields, like the Indian coolies, they are not a tribe so fierce as Bengal settlers, nor half so sharp as Madrasites; although the colonial mind is puzzled to account for their success. Yet there it is, a proved fact about which there can be no dispute. The whole retail trade of the island is gradually being monopolized by Chinese traders, no place being left to the two remaining classes separately inhabited in the same established by the original Chinese. In other countries John Chinaman becomes a tailor, shoemaker, or carpenter, but in Mauritius he is invariably either a shopkeeper or steamer. Every year the number of "Celestials" engaged in "petty" trade increases by 600 or 700, to the great indignation of the European portion of the community, who find the business gradually falling into the hands of their practical rivals. The reason for this state of things appears to be that Chinese tradesmen can afford to undersell Europeans, because, being more economical, they can submit on smaller profits. As for that inevitable success which subjoins the other colonists, it may be accounted for by the fact, that the prevailing attributes of Chinese art and industry, frugality, perseverance, and stern will, are such as to render them equally happy combination of characteristics which will probably be able to compete more successfully with the thriving immigrants whom they now wish to banish from their beautiful island— *Globe*.

## THE ATTEMPT TO SHOOT PRINCE BISMARCK.

Archbishop Manning, preaching in the temporary church of St. Mary, Moorfields, said that within the last few days they had heard of a foul and murderous attempt upon the life of the Imperial Chancellor of Germany. Every Christian and every Catholic heart detested and abominated such an attempt. He had read in the chief journals of the country, and therefore, he might say, the chief journals of Europe, words like these: "The Romish Church will find that it has lost by this act of fanaticism." And, on Saturday, after gathering together all the lies, insinuations, imputations, and suspicions that could be gathered from the papers of Germany, there followed a general execration of anything that could justify the assassination of (Germany). It is not an event as this." Now he appealed to all his brethren as men of honest conscience, he appealed to Englishmen—whether this was language that ought to come from honest men; whether it did not contain in itself the malice of falsehood—whether consciously or unconsciously, it was not for him to judge. This he said, and they did not like to let the other know, and out of the love he had in his heart, to be contented that better knowledge, or if they had not better knowledge, was easy to be had. Well, this miserable attempt upon the life of a man was, as he (Dr. Manning) was informed, committed by an unhappy person, whose mother had long been under detention for insanity, and who, in all probability, inherited the same traits. Indeed, this man had been already under the strong arm of the law, and had been tried, and the man must be regarded as a person hardly responsible. What world man says of him (the Archbishop), if he said, "The British Empire will find it has lost by the last act of murder." Why, every Englishman would look him in the face, and say, "How dare you blacken the British Empire for the crime of its subjects—a crime for which you are responsible—and the criminal you speak of?" For the people that talk thus in this manner, I say, that they are the greatest scoundrels in the world. They are the blacker crime, because it poisoned the public conscience and stirred up bad blood. When they maligned the "Romish" Church—that was the Church of God whose sovereignty extended through the whole world, whose centre was in Rome, and therefore, we must call it the Catholic Church, he could not understand, as Dr. Manning did, that there was not a devil in any of his father's or son's soul. Eighteen months ago legislation was passed against the pastors and people of Germany, and in this country there was a hardly suppressed sympathy with those who defied justice and cruelty contained in that legislation. They had been told—and he wonders they were not told, and the man must be regarded as a person hardly responsible. What world man says of him (the Archbishop), if he said, "The British Empire will find it has lost by the last act of murder."

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.  
SEPTEMBER 1ST, EVENING.  
Bengal Drug has further advanced. Palm oil, hands at the opening of the market at 57/- closing at 58/- per mohur. Stock 27/- shares. Bazaar 75/- shares. No change in Mysore, 75/- shares. No change in Hulsi, the market for which has been quiet during the day.

EXCHANGE.  
On LUNJUN.—Bank Bills, on demand, 4/- Bank Bills, 30 days sight, 4/- Bank Bills, 60 days sight, 4/- Outward Bills, 30 days sight, 4/- Documentary Bills, 45 months sight, 4/- 4/28  
On BONBAY.—Bank, 3 days' sight, 2/22  
On CALCUTTA.—Bank, 3 days' sight, 2/22  
On SHANTAL.—Bank, sight, 7/24  
Private, 30 days' sight, 7/34  
On CHINATOWN.—Bank, 3 days' sight, 2/22  
Hongkong, 30 days' sight, 2/22  
On CHINA.—Bank Shares, 9/- per share.  
China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$151 per share.  
Victoria Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$121 per share.  
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—80/- per cent. discount.  
Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—\$1 per share.  
Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—75/- per share.  
Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$50 per cent. discount.  
China Tobacco Company—\$94 per cent. discount.  
SALES OF SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1874.  
As reported by Chinese.  
China Coal, 30 bags, at \$2.60, by Cheow-fong to travelling trader.  
White Pepper, 100 bags, at \$18.50, by Yee-chong to travelling trader.  
Cottons, 20 packages, at \$7.10, by Yee-chong.  
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A clergyman says, "I once married a handsome young couple, and as I took the bride by the hand, at the close of the ceremony, and gave her my warmest congratulations, and the bride burst into tears, and, pointing to the bridegroom, replied, 'I think he is the one to be congratulated.'"

A Foreigner, in learning the English language, and finding that the word *plague* is a monosyllable, while *ague*, which contains only the last four letters of *plague*, is a disyllable, said he wished that the *plague* would take half of the language, and the *ague* the other half.

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The Daily Press Office.

CHINA AND TURKESTAN.

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## Extracts.

"FAIRY" IN THE ORCHARD.  
Down among the apple-blossoms,  
Sweet and fair as they,  
Darling little blue-eyed "Fairy"  
Dances in her play.

Only those golden sunbeams,  
Shining light and free,  
Up and down the gray orchard,  
Full of golden bee.

Dainty treasures, pink and snowy,  
All around her lie,  
Softly gathered from the branches  
At the wind goes by.

Some she gathers in her spoon—  
Presents little pearls—  
Others drop with touch caressing  
On her sunny curl.

Sweetly happy in happy measure  
On the fragrant grass,  
comes to tell me  
"Fairy" will it there.

## TAKING THE CHANCES.

AN INCIDENT IN THE WAR OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE.

The following thrilling narrative is from a translation. A captain of the Mexican insurgent army is giving an account of a moditated night attack upon a hacienda situated in the Cordilleras, and occupied by a large force of Spanish soldiers. After a variety of details, he continues:

"Having arrived at the hacienda unperceived, thanks for the obscurity of a moonless night, we came to a halt under some large trees at some distance from the building, and I rode forward from my troop in order to reconnoitre the place. The hacienda, so far as I could see in gliding across, formed a huge, massive parallelogram, strengthened by enormous buttresses of hewn stone. Along this chain the walls of the hacienda almost formed the continuation of another perpendicular one, chiseled by nature, leading to the bottom of which the eye could not penetrate, for what I incessantly hollered up from below, did not allow it to measure their awful depth. This place was known, in the country, by the name of 'The Valadero.'

"I had explored all sides of the building

excepting this, when I know not what scruple of military honor incited me to continue my ride along the ravine which protected the rear of the hacienda. Between the walls and the precipice there was a narrow pathway about six feet wide; by day the passage would have been dangerous, but by night it was a path of safety. The walls of the farm took an extensive sweep, the path crept around them, and in the darkness, only two paces from the edge of a perpendicular chasm, was no very easy task, even for a practised horseman as myself. Nevertheless, I did not hesitate but boldly urged my horse between the walls of the farm house and the abyss of the Valadero. I had got half over the distance with out accident when all of a sudden, my horse neighed aloud. This neigh made me shudder. I had just reached a pass where the ground was just wide enough for the four legs of a horse, and it was impossible to retrace my steps.

"'Ho! I exclaimed aloud, at the risk of betraying myself, which was even less dangerous than encountering horsemen in front of me on such a road. There is a Christian passing thong the ravine. Now back.'

"It was too late. At that moment a man on horseback passed round one of the bushes, and there obstructed the accursed pathway. He advanced toward me.

"'For the love of God can you return? I exclaimed, terrified at the fearful situation in which we both were placed.

"'Impossible!' replied the horseman.

"I recommended my soul to God. Turned our horses round for want of room, to back them along the path we had travelled, or even to dismount from them—these were three impossibilities, which placed us both in the presence of a fearful doom. Between two horsemen so placed upon this fearful path, I had no little to fear from the maddened, or loss of strength from starvation occurs the buffalo's unhappy position is known, and half a dozen of these nobles will remain night and day watching for an opportunity to complete the work; and should this not occur as soon as desirable, not unfrequently they will make a simultaneous assault, one precluding to fly at the victim's head, while another attacks in the rear, using every artifice to pull the buffalo's hamstring, in which they invariably succeed, unless the presence of man should distract them.

"On one occasion, while hunting, I obtained an excellent opportunity of witnessing one of these encounters. At the distance of half a mile I perceived an old bull going through a variety of eccentric movements, which were at the moment perfectly incomprehensible. To know what might be the cause, as well as to learn something new regarding this race, I left my horse and made a most careful stalk without exposing myself, retaining the advantage of wind till within a hundred yards of the old gentleman. The ground in the vicinity was much broken, and, before attempting to obtain a survey of the situation, I encircled myself behind a boulder.

"I had been eminently successful, the first glance told me. There was the bull pretending to feed, while four prairie wolves were lying around him on the sparsely-covered soil, tongues out and evidently short of breath from the excessive exertion. None of the *domesticus* persons had seen me, and I chuckled in my sleeve as I grasped more firmly my double barrel, knowing how soon I could turn the tide of battle. By the way, the prairie wolf has always been a favourite of mine, as well as his half-brother, the coyote. Their bark has often recalled pleasant memories, and their services have several times recovered a wounded deer. In a few minutes the apparent ringleader of the quartet got up and shook himself. This was the signal for the others to rear upon their pins. Prairie wolf number one walked quietly towards the bull, occasionally stopping (after the manner of dogs to pock grass); then, with a sudden spring, made a lunge at the persecuted buffalo's head. The bull in his turn lowered his head, and advanced a few steps to meet him; but this was unnecessary. Now the rest of the fraternity rushed upon him to the post of terror, while our friend number one dropped into the rear; and when a second faint at the head was made by his comrade, number one, watching his chance, let a deep snarl over the bull's hock. Again and again this game was played, the same wolf always retaining his rear position. Is not the instinct of animals most similar to the reason of man? Here each wolf had his allotted work, doubtless that which was best suited for his capacity. The rear assault was the most dangerous; for a kick well-directed would undoubtedly have caused instant death to the adventurous assailant; but the most experienced and expert had selected the post of danger and honour. The flinching eyes and foaming mouth of the bull told plainly the result, so I stepped from my concealment. However, all were so occupied that until I awakened the echoes with a loud "war-whoop!" it was unseen; but man's voice always has its effect in cases of this kind. The vermin, with startled stare, plainly asking what the fellow fight I had to interfere, suddenly trotted off as I advanced; while the persecuted, in return for my kindness, lowered his head and passed rapidly for me, compelling me to seek safety in flight. Such conduct in this buffalo was scarcely commendable, and very unusual. I accounted for it by the harassing his temper had suffered, as well as his feeling how inadequate his strength was for escape by flight. Poor old creature, his days were numbered; for as soon as my back was turned, and a safe distance interposed between us, the wolves returned, and as I rode homewards, occasionally turning and hating to watch the gradually more indistinct belligerents,

the victim was still employed in battling for life. After all, he was not paying the debt of nature, and dying as his ancestors for generations had died before him? Man yields his spirit to the source from whence he emanates, on a luxurious couch or bimble was not after frequently suffering, from protracted and painful illness. The veteran buffalo, fatigued from age, after a long and happy life, when unable to keep with his companions, dies in a gallant, and short struggle, overpowered by his too numerous enemies, a death worthy of a hero—*"Prairie and Forest,"* by Parker Gilmore.

"Will five minutes be sufficient?"  
The Colonel pulled out his watch. I addressed towards the heavens, brilliant with stars, which I thought I was looking to for the last time, with an intense and burning voice.

"It is time," said the Colonel.

"I answered nothing, and with a firm hand, gathered up the bridle of my horse, and drew it within my fingers, which were agitated with a nervous tremor.

"Yet one moment more," I said to the Colonel, "for I have need of all my courage to face into execution the fearful incurrence which I am about to commence."

"Granted," replied Gardner.

"My education had been in the country. My childhood, and part of my earliest youth, had almost been passed on horseback. I may say without flattery myself, that if there was any one in the world capable of executing a difficult equestrian feat, it was myself. I rallied myself with almost a supernatural effort, and succeeded in recovering my entire self-possession in very face of death. Taking it at the worst, I had already braved it too often to be any longer alarmed at it. From that instant I dared to hope that, as often as in my horse-folt, for the first time since my encounter with the Colonel, the bit compressing his mouth, I perceived that he trembled beneath me. I strengthened myself firmly on my stirrups to make the terrified animal understand that his master no longer trembled. I held him up with bridle and the hams, as every good horseman does in a dangerous passage, and with the bridle, the body, and the spint together, succeeded in braving him a few paces. His head was already further from that of his master than from the edge of the precipice, and the bit compressing his mouth, I perceived that he trembled beneath me. I all he could with his voice.

"This done, the poor, trembling brute, who obeyed me in spite of terror, repose for a few moments, and then recovered the same manœuvre. All of a sudden I felt his hind legs give way under me. A horrible shudder ran through my whole frame. I closed my eyes, as if about to roll to the bottom of the abyss, and I gave to my body a sudden impulse on the side next to the precipice, the surface of which offered not a single protection, not a bit of wood to clutch my descent. This sudden movement joined to the desperate struggles of my horse, was the salvation of my life. He had sprang up again on his legs, which seemed ready to fall from under him so desperately did I feel them tremble.

"I had succeeded in reaching, between the brink of the precipice and the wall of the building, a spot some five inches broader. A few more would have enabled me to turn his head around, but to attempt it then would have been fatal, and I dared not venture. I sought to resume my backward progress step by step. Twice the horse threw himself on his hind legs, and was down upon the same spot. It was in vain to urge him anew, either with voice, bridle or spur; the animal obstinately refused to take a single step in the rear. Nevertheless I did not feel my courage yet exhausted, for I had no desire to die. One last, solitary chance of safety suddenly appeared to me, like a flash of light, and I resolved to employ it. Through the fastening of my boot, and in touch of my hand, was placed a sharp, keen knife, which I drew forth from its sheath. With my left hand I began extracting the manes of my horse, till the white letting him tear my voice.

"The poor animal replied to my caresses by a plaintive neighing; then, not to alarm him, my hand followed by little and little, the curve of his enormous neck, and finally rested upon the spot where the last of the vertebrae unites itself with the cranium. The horse trembled, but I calmed him with my voice.

"When I felt his very life, so to speak, palpitating in his brain beneath my fingers, I leaned over towards the wall, my feet gaily slid from the shrubs, and with one vigorous blow I buried the pointed blade of my knife into the seat of the vital principal. The animal fell as if thunder-struck, without a single motion; and, for myself, my knees almost as high as my chin, I found myself a horseback across a corpse! I was saved! Uttered a triumphant cry, which was responded to by the Colonel, and which the abyss re-echoed with a hollow sound, as if it felt that its prey had escaped it. I quitted the saddle, sat down between the wall and the body of my horse and vigorously pushed with my feet against the carcass of the wretched animal, which rolled down into the abyss. I then arose and cleared at a few bounds the distance which separated the place where I was from the plain, and under the irresistible reaction of the terror which had long repressed, I sank into a swoon upon the ground."

"I am for Mexico and the Insurgents!"

I exclaimed in a moment of excitement, ready to spring upon the unknown horseman, if he was in the negative.

"Mexico Insurgents! That is my password, replied the cavalier. "I am the Colonel Gardner."

"I am the Captain Castaño."

"Our acquaintance was of long standing, and, but for mutual agitators, we should have no need to exchange our names. The Colonel had left us two days since, at the head of the detachment, which he supposed to be other prisoners or cut off, for they had not been seen to return to camp.

"Well, Colonel," I exclaimed. "I am sorry you are not a Spaniard, for you perceive that one of us must yield the pathway to the other."

"Our horses had the bridle on their necks, and I put my hands to the holster of my saddle to draw out my pistol.

"I see so plainly," returned the Colonel, with a gleaming coolness, "that I should already have blown out the brains of your horse, but for the fear last night, in a moment of fury, should precipitate me, with your self to the bottom of the abyss."

"I remained, in fact, that the Colonel already held his pistol in his hand. We both remained almost profound silence. Our horses felt the danger like ourselves, and remained as immovable as if their feet were nailed to the ground. My exertion had failed to move them. What are we going to do?"

"Draw lots to see which of the two shall lead into the ravine."

"It was in truth, the sole means of resolving the difficulty. There are nevertheless some precautions to take, said the Colonel."

"He who shall be condemned by the lots shall retire backward. It will be but feeble chance for escape for him, I admit, but, in short, there is a chance and especially in favour of the winner."

"You cling not to life, then, I tried out, terrified at the *sang froid* with which this proposition was put to me."

"I cling to life more than yourself," sharply replied the Colonel, "for I have a mortal urge to avenge. But the time is fast approaching away. Are you ready to proceed to draw the last lottery in which one of us will ever live?"

"How were we to proceed to this drawing by lots? By means of the wet finger, like the school-boys? Both ways were impracticable. Our hands—nearly stretched out over the heads of our frightened horses might give them a fatal start. Should we toss up a piece of coin, the night was too dark to enable us to distinguish which side fell upward. The Colonel thought him of an expedient of which I should never have dreamed."

"Listen to me, Captain, and the Colonel, to whom I had communicated my perplexities. I have another way. The terror which our horses feel makes them draw every moment a burring breath. The first two whose horse shall neigh."

"'Whee!' I exclaimed, hastily.

"'Not so; shall be the loser. I know that you are a countryman, and, as such, can do whatever you please with your horse. As to poor old creature, his days were numbered; for as soon as my back was turned, and a safe distance interposed between us, the wolves returned, and as I rode homewards, occasionally turning and hating to watch the gradually more indistinct belligerents,

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1858 Hong Kong, 16th October, 1858.

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